(c) Seven Indians are known to have died and three injured in such incidents. Compensation would be paid to the next of kin of the deceased in terms of the employment contract.

(d) Government have tightened the emigration control to prevent Indian workers from being misled into employment in Iraq. Heads of Indian Mission in Iraq and countries neighbouring Iraq have been instructed to give top priority to all matters concerning Indian nationals in Iraq and to pursue actively with local authorities and employers of Indians for ensuring safety and well being of Indians living in Iraq and to give assistance and guidance to those Indian nationals wanting to return to India. In Kuwait, our Mission has established contacts with the local companies who have deployed their Indian employees on work in Iraq and has taken steps to ensure that such Indian workers are made aware of the conditions in Iraq and provided insurance cover and safety arrangements. The Government have taken up with Jordan and Kuwait for facilitating transit of Indians leaving Iraq. In Iraq, officials of our Mission visit various camps from time to time to ascertain well being and safety of Indians.

Indian ex-servicemen in Iraq

†969. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to send Indian troops to Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether placement agencies are sending ex-servicemen to Iraq illegally; and

(d) if Government are aware of it, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have seen reports about recruiting agents sending ex-servicemen to Iraq in violation of emigration norms. The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

concerned authorities have issued show cause notices to such recruiting agents. Government have tightened the emigration control for Iraq and neighbouring countries. With effect from 15 April, 2004, emigration clearance for Iraq has been suspended. With effect from May 7, 2004, emigration clearance has been suspended for Jordan, Kuwait and UAE in respect of ex-servicemen in order to prevent recruiting agents from using these countries for taking ex-servicemen to Iraq. Indian Missions in Iraq and its neighbouring countries have been instructed to extend all possible assistance and guidance to such persons intending to return to India.

Unemployment in Maharashtra and Punjab

970. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of educated, uneducated, skilled and unskilled, unemployed persons registered in employment exchanges in the country, particularly in the States of Maharashtra and Punjab as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have, so far, identified industries and other areas to provide employment to such persons;

(c) if so, the details of the area identified and the number of persons likely to be provided employment in such areas; and

(d) the strategies Government have adopted so far, to tackle an alarmingly increase in the rate of unemployment in the country as a whole and particularly in Punjab and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Details of the educated (10th standard and above) and uneducated jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in Maharashtra and Punjab as on December 2002 in given below:

Job seekers as on December 2002 (In thousands)

	Educated	Uneducated
Maharashtra	3350.2	996.7
Punjab	383.1	123.3
All India	29667.9	11503.3

Skill-wise information is not maintained.